

"stern round tower of other days,
Firm as a fortress, with its fence of stone,
Such as an army's baffled strength delays,
Standing with half its battlements alone,
And with two thousand years of ivy grown."
BYRON.

The private residences of the emperors and citizens of note corresponded with the magnificence of the public buildings. The ruins of the Palace of the Cæsars nearly cover the Palatine hill; it was begun by Augustus, considerably added to by Tiberius, and enlarged by Caligula, who formed the gigantic project of uniting the Palatine hill with the Capitol by a bridge. Nero extended the palace to an immense distance, as far as the Cælian and Esquiline hills, and was so profuse and extravagant in the decorations of his palace that it was called Nero's Golden House; the galleries were a mile in length, the ceilings of the dining-halls represented the motion of the firmament. Domitian rivalled him by enlarging this abode, and by the lavish expenditure he displayed therein. Trajan stripped it to adorn the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus; it was destroyed or much injured by fire in the reign of Commodus, but was restored by him, and repaired and enriched by Alexander Severus and almost every succeeding emperor until the time of Theodoric. It is now a heap of undistinguishable ruins, and "the spider spreads the veil in the Palace of the Cæsars, and the owl stands sentinel on the Imperial mount;" and cabbages and artichokes may be purchased in the halls of those Cæsars who wielded the greatest sceptre ever held by the hand of man.

Hadrian's villa, near Tivoli, occupied an area of nearly five miles in extent, and its ruins still excite the wonder of the traveller. It resembles a city rather than a villa, for within its circuit were temples, baths, gymnasies, a theatre, and lodging-houses for his friends, his officers, and soldiers. In his palace he imitated all the best buildings of Greece, and the gardens were made to resemble the Elysian fields, and even the infernal regions. Among the admirable Greek sculptures found in the ruins of Hadrian's villa, are the Faun, the VENUS DE MEDICI, and the Flora; and that such matchless works of art were not confined to the chambers of the very highest in rank, we gather from the fact, that in the ruins of the villa of the historian Sallust were found the Silenus and Infant Bacchus, the Hercules and the DYING GLADIATOR. Mr. Hope well observes that each of these Imperial baths seemed a palace in splendour, and a city in size; whilst an early writer (Ammianus Marcellinus) compares them to provinces rather than to cities.

It would fill a volume only to mention the names of the hundreds of temples which once adorned Rome, of the circuses, gymnasies, theatres, porticos, naumachies (places wherein sea-fights were displayed), fora (in the time of Augustus to the number of forty-five), basilicas "for the administration of justice, and the despatch of business, vast and superb beyond description, and even shambles so sumptuous, that on a medal of Nero appears a building inscribed 'Macellum Augusti,' which, from the richness of its columns, might be mistaken for an amphitheatre." (Hope.) Many extraordinary structures have been briefly noticed, and enough has been said to convey some notion of the magnificence of ancient Rome, of her pride and pomp, when pouring out her countless thousands

"along the Sacred Way
The triumph came, and winding round
With acclamation, and the martial clang
Of instruments, and cars laden with spoil,
Stopp'd at the sacred stair . . .

And the victor springing from his seat,
Went up, and kneeling as in fervent prayer,
Entered the Capitol." ROSS.

"Now all is changed,"

"The Goth, the Christian, time, war, flood, and fire,
Have dealt upon the seven-hilled city's pride;
She saw her glories star by star expire,
And up the steep, barbarian monarchs ride
Where the car climb'd the Capitol; far and wide
Temple and tower went down, nor left a site."
BYRON.

We need not wonder at the magnificence of ancient Rome, if we reflect that she was abso-

* The architects of Nero were Calix and Severus.

lutely mistress of the (known) world; that she came, and saw, and conquered; that monarchs trembled on their distant thrones lest they too should adorn a Roman triumph, and grace the victor's chariot-wheels; from which humiliation neither the Numidian monarchs Syphax and Jugurtha, nor the Asiatic queen Zenobia, nor the British Caractacus, nor the Macedonian Perseus, nor the Jewish Simon, were able to protect themselves:—

"Well might the great, the mighty of the world,
They who were wont to fare deliciously,
And war but for a kingdom more or less,
Shrink back, nor from their thrones endure to look,
To think that way! Well might they in their state
Humble themselves, and kneel and supplicate
To be delivered from a dream like this!"
ROSS'S Italy.

Some invoked death, and so escaped the fearful trial: Hannibal by the poison, Cleopatra by the asp, and he who, when the fatal cup harmed not, fell on his own sword.

The spoils of the then known world were at the command of Rome, and the genius of the Roman people seemed to take a delight in expanding itself, like their all-conquering eagles, in rearing structures which should serve as trophies of their greatness and proofs of their claim to universal dominion. But the states of Greece were hardly larger than some of our English counties; their works were frequently interrupted by the enemy at their gates, and their democratic jealousy would not allow their citizens to erect any handsome private edifices; thus their magistrates, watched with a severe and scrutinizing glance, were hardly better lodged than the meanest citizens of Rome. The resources of the two nations were widely different, yet the Greeks produced that faultless system of architecture upon which mighty Rome formed her own school, for her orders are but plagiarisms from the Greeks, engraving her blemishes upon their beauties.

G. R. F.

(To be continued.)

OPENING OF THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.

THE above spacious edifice was opened on Monday last by her Majesty in person, attended by Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Wellington, the Bishop of London, the ministers of state, several members of the corps diplomatique, and a long list of the nobility, gentry, merchants and civic authorities. On this occasion her Majesty was pleased to confer the dignity of baronet upon the Lord Mayor, now the Right Hon. Sir William Magnay, Bart. During the inauguration, an interesting ceremony took place in the centre of the Merchants' Area, on the spot where the statue of her Majesty, by Mr. Lough, is to be placed; this was the naming of the Royal Exchange by her Majesty. The Lord Mayor, as he preceded her Majesty, stopped when he reached this point, and the members of the corporation, together with the chief ministers of state, formed a circle round her Majesty, who then in an audible voice said "It is my Royal will and pleasure that this building be hereafter called the Royal Exchange."

We have so frequently during its progress had occasion to speak professionally of the building, that our readers will readily excuse us doing more on the present occasion than simply registering its opening.

IRON CHURCH FOR JAMAICA.—A church has been sent out to Jamaica, as a specimen, as many of the kind are likely to be required. The pillar supports are of cast-iron, on which are fixed the frame roof, of wrought-iron, of an ingenious construction, combining great strength with simplicity of arrangement; the whole is covered with corrugated iron, and the ceiling formed in paneled compartments, covered with felt, to act as a non-conductor of heat. The body of the church is 65 feet by 40; the chancel, 24 by 12; a robing-room and vestry are attached. The windows are glazed with plate-glass, one-eighth of an inch in thickness; the two chancel windows, and four others, are of stained glass. The cost of this iron church is 1,000*l*.—*Glasgow Chronicle*.

* Mithridates, King of Pontus, who had been in the habit of taking so many antidotes, that poison had no effect upon him.

† Demosthenes accused Midias that he had built a house at Eleusis by which all the others were thrown in the shade.

THE BIRKENHEAD DOCKS.

THE occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the docks at Birkenhead, intended by the projectors as a kind of rival to Liverpool, has created a great sensation in this and the surrounding district. Although there has been no particular complaint of the want of dock accommodation at Liverpool, it has been deemed a matter of infinite importance in the Cheshire side of the river to form docks in that neighbourhood, whence projected railways and various other means of forwarding the views of commerce are contemplated. The town of Birkenhead itself, which comprises Woodside, Monk's Ferry, Tranmere, and a number of other places, has for some years been laid out in streets; and owing to the indefatigable exertions, industry, and perseverance of Mr. William Jackson, the township has risen to its present state of importance, and which now commands the general attention of the inhabitants at large of this part of the country. To day was appointed for laying the foundation-stone of these docks; and such a numerous assemblage of individuals, many state with confidence was never previously congregated on the Cheshire shore. The cost after the first stone was laid may be estimated as follows:—

The docks at Wallasey Pool (by the commissioners), 400,000*l*; dock warehouses (private company), 600,000*l*; New Market (commissioners), 20,000*l*; Town-hall dock, 10,000*l*; Park dock, 25,000*l*; Tunnel from Grange-lane to Monk's Ferry, belonging to the Chester and Birkenhead Railway, 20,000*l*; making in all 1,075,000*l*. These are works finished, or intended to be finished, as in the case of the docks and warehouses, the market, the Town-hall, the park, and the tunnel are nearly wholly finished. Such a great undertaking as this naturally has excited the utmost interest, and to-day may be considered as a memorable epoch in the annals of commercial enterprise.

So early as nine o'clock in the morning immense crowds of individuals flocked to the pier-heads, and the boats were so crowded by the curious from Liverpool, that the general passage by the boats for residents was quite impeded, and from their great loading serious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the living cargoes. Fortunately, however, no serious accidents occurred; a few persons slipped into the river, but they were not injured beyond getting a mere ducking. In honour of the occasion, the ships of the Liverpool docks displayed their gayest colours, and various vessels in the river returned the compliment to the guns which were booming from six o'clock in the morning from the Birkenhead shore. Many of the shops in Liverpool closed for the occasion, and various of the societies of trades, odd-fellows, shipwrights, and others embarked for the Cheshire side, and joined in the general rejoicing. A grand procession was formed of the principal inhabitants and authorities to see the spectacle of laying the first stone of the docks, and every window in its line was filled, principally by the Lancashire and Cheshire witches. The procession left the Town-hall at eleven o'clock, and proceeded round the New-park; and after parading the principal streets, halted in a field beyond Mr. Case's house, where the first stone of the anticipated future prosperity of Birkenhead was to be laid. A vast number of individuals were congregated upon the spot, and on the approach of the procession, with Sir Philip Egerton at its head, the most enthusiastic cheers were given. The stone having been lowered into the place destined for its reception, containing, as it did, the coins and documents selected for the occasion,

Sir P. Egerton addressed the spectators at considerable length, after which the aristocracy of this and the surrounding neighbourhood partook of a sumptuous entertainment, served up in a spacious pavilion erected on a portion of the premises of the Chester and Birkenhead Railway. Mr. John Laird, ship-builder, of Birkenhead, presiding.

Liverpool, Wednesday, Oct. 23.

MONOLITHIC TOMB FOR THE REMAINS OF NAPOLEON.—A block of porphyry, weighing upwards of 50,000 lbs., has been taken from the quarries at Morlaix, to be used for the sarcophagus of the Emperor Napoleon.